



## Heat stress and public health: A critical review

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### Abstract:

Heat is an environmental and occupational hazard. The prevention of deaths in the community caused by extreme high temperatures (heat waves) is now an issue of public health concern. The risk of heat-related mortality increases with natural aging, but persons with particular social and/or physical vulnerability are also at risk. Important differences in vulnerability exist between populations, depending on climate, culture, infrastructure (housing), and other factors. Public health measures include health promotion and heat wave warning systems, but the effectiveness of acute measures in response to heat waves has not yet been formally evaluated. Climate change will increase the frequency and the intensity of heat waves, and a range of measures, including improvements to housing, management of chronic diseases, and institutional care of the elderly and the vulnerable, will need to be developed to reduce health impacts.

**Source:** <http://dx.doi.org/10.1146/annurev.publhealth.29.020907.090843>

### Resource Description

#### Early Warning System:

resource focus on systems used to warn populations of high temperatures, extreme weather, or other elements of climate change to prevent harm to health

A focus of content

#### Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Air Pollution, Temperature

**Air Pollution:** Ozone, Particulate Matter

**Temperature:** Extreme Heat

#### Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Ocean/Coastal, Urban

#### Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

# Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Non-United States, United States

**Non-United States:** Europe

**European Region/Country:** European Country

**Other European Country :** United Kingdom; Portugal; Italy; Greece; Netherlands; France; Spain; Switzerland; Germany; Belgium;

**Health Impact:** 

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Morbidity/Mortality

**Intervention:** 

strategy to prepare for or reduce the impact of climate change on health

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**Mitigation/Adaptation:** 

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

**Population of Concern:** A focus of content

**Population of Concern:** 

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Children, Elderly, Low Socioeconomic Status

**Other Vulnerable Population:** adults with chronic disease

**Resource Type:** 

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

**Timescale:** 

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

**Vulnerability/Impact Assessment:** 

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content